

REMARKS

In view of the preceding amendments and the comments which follow, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, amendment and reconsideration of the Office Action, mailed on January 18, 2005 is respectfully requested by Applicant.

Summary

Claims 1 – 3 stand rejected. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 4 has been added. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendment.

Claims 1 - 4 are pending following entry of the present amendments and remarks.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Taniuchi (U.S. Patent 5,901,836).

Pending Claim 1 is directed to an illuminated electric part. The illuminated electric part comprises a manipulating shaft and a light source. As amended, Claim 1 now recites that “the manipulating shaft has light incident faces comprising planes extending in directions orthogonal to an optical path from the light source at the respective stable points...”

The Taniuchi reference is silent about light incident faces comprising planes extending in directions orthogonal to the optical path of the light. In fact, Taniuchi states that “the first light conductor (shaft) (22) transparent and shaped in cylinder.” Further, the shaft (22) is shown to be cylindrical in Figure 2. Thus, Taniuchi does not disclose these claimed incident face planes of the shaft.

Amended Claim 1 also recites that “a coned light reflecting face having a top thereof which extends downwardly at a side thereof opposite to the incident faces.” That is, the light reflecting face has a coned shape, as seen in Figure 5A. In contrast, Taniuchi states that the light interceptor (light reflecting face) (22B) has a slope with a substantial angle 45 degrees, and has a concave slope. This substantial angle 45 degrees slope of

the light reflective face (interceptor) extends through the whole cross-section of the light conductor (22), as shown in Figures 2, 5, and 7. Thus, the claimed coned light reflective face is distinguishable from Taniuchi's light interceptor (22B).

For at least the above discussed reasons, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Taniuchi, and thus allowable. Dependent Claim 2 is also allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these claim rejections under 35 USC 102(b) be withdrawn.

Newly added Claim 4 recites that "an axis of the coned light reflecting face is positioned on the center of rotation of the manipulating shaft." This position of the axis of the light reflective face is not taught or disclosed by Taniuchi. As stated above, Taniuchi's substantial angle 45 degrees slope of the light reflective face (interceptor) extends through the whole cross-section of the light conductor (shaft), as shown in Figures 2, 5, and 7. Thus, an axis of the reflective face would have either an orthogonal or parallel direction to the 45 degree angle of the slope of the reflective face. Neither of these two directions of this axis does coincide with the center of rotation of the light conductor. Accordingly, Claim 4 is allowable over Taniuchi.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Taniuchi in view of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent 5,952,628). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

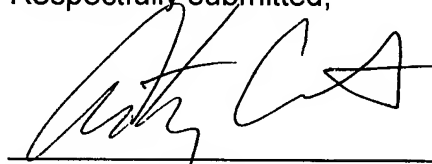
The Examiner states that Taniuchi discloses the claimed invention but fails to teach a switch that has a tiltably supported shaft. However, as shown above in regard to the 102(b) rejection of Claim 1, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Taniuchi. Since Claim 3 is dependent on Claim 1, Taniuchi and Sato may not properly be combined to reject Claim 3.

Thus, Claim 3 is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that this Claim 3 rejection under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that Claims 1 - 4 are patentable, and requests the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Curtis', written over a horizontal line.

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